Allotment Overview
Dick's Creek # 1306

Allotment Boundary: see attached map

7.5 Minute Topographic Quads :	Crooked Creek Valley, OR
AUM's of Authorized Use:	55
Permitted Season of Use:	Spring 5/1 to 31
Grazing System:	Two-Pasture Early Season
Land Status:	BLM – 360 acres

The Dicks Creek Allotment is located approximately 13 miles North of Lakeview, OR (see attached map). The allotment is categorized as a Section 15 Allotment. This category is in reference to Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act. Which describes BLM land where grazing is authorized outside of any grazing district established under the Taylor Grazing Act.

Standard I – Upland Watershed – Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage and stability that are appropriate to soil, climate and landform.

This standard is being met on the Dick's Creek Allotment.

Indicators used to evaluate upland watershed condition in this allotment are plant composition and grazing management. Current plant composition is compared to a defined Potential Natural Plant Community (PNC) for the identified soil types and precipitation zone (Table 1). Although no official surveys have been completed in recent years, casual observations of plant species in the allotment show species current composition to be comparable composition reported in a 1976 Management Plan. PNC data was compiled using the Soil Survey of Lake County, Oregon, Southern Part, published 2001. Table 1 compares the current plant composition with the PNC. Plant species expected at PNC for each range site as described in the Lake County Soil Survey are part of plant community composition currently found on the allotment.

Grazing Management
In the past 22 years, the permittee has taken non-use 15 years. An additional fence, constructed in the early 1990's, has decreased the incidences of trespass by cattle trailing through the allotment.

The current permitted season of use is from 5/1 – 5/30. Cattle are turned out on the upland pasture. As water sources in the upland pasture become less reliable, the cattle are moved to the riparian pasture. This spring grazing system results in utilization of a combination of current season's growth and the previous season's growth in both pastures. Earlier use in the upland pasture allows the area to take advantage of spring precipitation for regrowth. The riparian pasture has more opportunity for regrowth at later dates. Movements into the riparian pasture later also allow the area to dry and firm, becoming more capable of carrying livestock without breaking the sod. Livestock are removed from the allotment while the plants are still growing. This form of grazing is expected to promote the vigor of both herbaceous and woody species.

Standard II- Riparian/Wetland Areas- Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning physical condition appropriate to soil, climate and landform.

This standard is being met on the Dick's Creek Allotment.

All of Dick's Creek on BLM was rated as PFC (Proper Functioning Condition). Lotic PFC site inventories were completed in 1997. A field visit to the upper reach in 2001 indicates a continuation of the PFC status.

The lower reach of the stream was not in as good a condition as the upper reach, but still functional. Current livestock management is resulting in progress towards improving conditions.

Standard III– <u>Ecological Processes</u> - Healthy, productive and diverse plant and animal populations and communities appropriate to soil, climate and landform are supported by ecological processes of nutrient cycling, energy flow and the hydrologic cycle.

<u>This standard is being met on the Dick's Creek Allotment.</u>

The current plant community composition as compared to the PNC was the indicator used to evaluate this standard. As stated above, plant species expected at PNC for each range site as described in Lake County Soil survey are part of the plant community compositions currently found on the allotment.

Table 1. Current plant composition compared with PNC composition.

Range Site	Dominant Vegetation on Allotment	PNC Dominant Vegetation	Plant species that occur on the allotment and are identified in the PNC description ✶
35F	*Juniperus occidenatlis, Pinus ponderosa, Ceanothus velutinus, Cerocarpus ledifolius, Chrysothamnus nauseosus, Purshia tridentata, Agropyron spicatum, Agrostis alba, Festuca idahoensis, Sitanion hystrix*, *Stipa* spp., *Poa* spp., *Carex* spp. and *Juncus balticus*	*Festuca idahoensis, Cerocarpus ledifolius, Artemisia tridentata* var *vaseyana* and *Poa cusickii*	FEID, CELE, POA spp
270G		*Pinus ponderosa, Ceanothus prostratus, Purshia tridentata* and *Wyethia* spp.	PIPO, PUTR
235G		*Abies concolor, Pinus ponderosa, Symphoricarpos albus, Arnica cordifolia* and *Poa nervosa*	PIPO, POA spp.

✶ These abbreviations represent the generic names of plant species found within the specific range sites

Medusahead rye (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) and Mediterranean sage (*Saliva aethiopis)*, Oregon noxious weeds occur in small patches throughout much of the allotment. Plans for treatment are currently underway.

Standard IV- <u>Water Quality</u>- Surface and groundwater quality, influenced by agency actions, complies with State water quality standards.

<u>This standard is being met on the Dicks Creek Allotment</u>.

Dicks Creek is not on the Oregon DEQ 303d list of Water Quality Impaired Streams. Grazing management has been altered to better manage riparian vegetation. Current management of livestock is resulting in significant progress towards meeting the standard.

Standard V- Native, T&E and locally Important Species- Habitats support healthy, productive and diverse populations and communities of native plants and animals (including special status species and species of local importance) appropriate to soil, climate and landform.

The standard is being met on the Dick's Creek Allotment.

There have been surveys for several specific Bureau sensitive plants in the allotment based on possible habitats, no plants were found. No sensitive or endangered plant species have been found during surveys completed prior to range improvement projects.

There are no listed or sensitive fish species on the allotment. Red band trout do occur in the stream on the allotment.

Special status wildlife species or their habitats that are present within this allotment include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalsu*), Lewis' woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), white-headed woodpecker (*Picoides albolarvatus*) and the black-backed woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*). There are also two species with high public interest. These are mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and elk (*Cervus elaphus*).

No quality-nesting habitat exists within this allotment for the bald eagle. It is suspected that they are occasional visitors to the area. There are no good foraging areas for peregrines within close proximity of this allotment. Bald eagle foraging may occur within the allotment, however it is probably restricted to occasional carrion scattered through the allotment. There are no resource conflicts for bald eagles.

Habitat for the three species of woodpeckers occurs throughout the allotment. This habitat is suitable, but marginal for these species. There are no resource conflicts for these species.

The allotment is within mule deer winter range. Timing of grazing is such that fall season use is minimized and impacts to bitterbrush and other forage species are light. Browse use appears to be minimal in most areas. No conflicts exist between mule deer and cattle grazing within this allotment.

Elk also use portions of this allotment during different times of the year. Elk herds within this area are very nomadic and use tends to be sporadic. No conflicts exist between elk and cattle grazing within this allotment.

Many portions of the allotment are covered with dense growth of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), ponderosa pine and western juniper. Thinning of dense pine and western juniper is some areas could improve woodpecker habitats. Treatment of medusahead rye would also benefit wildlife species.

Current Management and Recent Management Changes

In the early 1990's a boundary fence was constructed to restrict livestock access from the adjacent national Forest lands. This project controls late livestock drift into riparian areas.

Team Members	**Title**
Martina Keil	Rangeland Management Specialist
Lucile Housley	Botanist
Erin McConnell	Weed Specialist
Todd Forbes	Wildlife Biologist
Alan Munhall	Fisheries Biologist
Robert Hopper	Supervisory Rangeland Mgt Spec.
Ken Kestner	Supervisory Natural Resource Spec.

Determination

( ) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Dick's Creek Allotment promote achievement of significant progress toward the Oregon Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

( ) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Dick's Creek Allotment will require modification or change prior to the next grazing season to promote achievement of the Oregon Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

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Acting Field Manager, Lakeview Resource Area Date

DICKS CREEK ALLOTMENT # 1306